



United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

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PRESS RELEASE

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Maryland Man Pleads Guilty to Obstruction of an Official Proceeding

--False Certificate of had been filed in defendant's probation case to avoid revocation proceedings--

WASHINGTON - A 36-year-old Forestville, Maryland man, Benjamin E. Brown, Jr., has pled guilty to one count of Obstruction of An Official Proceeding, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced today. Brown entered his guilty plea yesterday afternoon in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia before the Honorable Henry H. Kennedy, Jr. The defendant faces a statutory maximum sentence of twenty years' incarceration and a likely sentence of 33 to 41 months under Federal Sentencing Guidelines. The sentencing hearing is scheduled for August 6, 2010.

According to the Statement of Offense filed with the court by the government, on November 28, 2007, the defendant was required to appear before the Honorable Emmet G. Sullivan in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, in a pending criminal case for a Hearing on Violation ("hearing"). The defendant knowingly and intentionally failed to appear for that hearing. The defendant knew that a false Certificate of Death which listed him as the decedent, along with other false information, was given to his probation officer on November 27, 2007. According to that false Certificate of Death, the defendant was allegedly shot to death in the District of Columbia on November 10, 2007. On December 4, 2007, based upon the defendant's alleged death, the Court granted the government's motion requesting that the prosecution abate the defendant's pending criminal case. By knowingly using a falsified death certificate, the defendant intended to corruptly obstruct, influence and impede the official proceedings in his pending criminal, because his conduct led to the dismissal of that criminal case.

In announcing the guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Machen commended the outstanding investigative work of Lead Criminal Investigator Duncan Templeton, and Criminal Investigators Christopher Brophy, Durand Odom, Tommy Miller, Melissa Matthews, and John Marsh of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. He also praised the work of Assistant U.S. Attorney Karla-Dee Clark who investigated and prosecuted the case, legal assistants Latoya Davenport, Latoya Wade, and Jacqueline Akyea, and paralegal Teesha Tobias who assisted with the case.

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